

plan, the price per ship will drop significantly and the Navy will realize cost savings of \$1 billion over the 4-year period.

The bill also adds \$45.3 million to continue the Navy's current strength of 13 active and 9 reserve squadrons of P-3 patrol aircraft. Four active and three reserve P-3 squadrons are based at Maine's Brunswick Naval Air Station, the only active military airfield in New England. These squadrons play an important role in antisubmarine warfare in the North Atlantic sealanes and in the Navy's littoral warfare mission in Europe and the Mediterranean region. One of the active P-3 squadrons based at Brunswick Naval Air Station in Maine is targeted for decommissioning for budgetary reasons, not because there has been any change in the Navy's mission. The funds authorized in this bill will ensure that Brunswick NAS will maintain its current level of four active P-3 squadrons.

Mr. President, S. 1745 embodies a well-balanced approach to our national defense in fiscal year 1997. It preserves our readiness to meet military emergencies, it emphasizes modernization and new weapons procurement, it continues research and development of promising new technologies, and it treats our military personnel fairly. Again, I congratulate the Armed Services Committee on their work, and I urge that the bill be adopted.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MILITARY NOMINATIONS

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I know the Senator from South Carolina has been working diligently, and he called a hearing. We have a number of very important military nominations out of our committee. They are now pending on the calendar. I know he has also followed that and has been working diligently to try to get all of these nominations approved by the end of business this evening, or certainly by tomorrow.

I both thank him for that, and I emphasize to all of our colleagues how important it is. Many of these positions need to be filled now. We have had these nominations before us for the appropriate time. We have looked into them on the committee. They are very top officials that will be going to various and important positions all over the world.

We have General Kadish, U.S. Air Force, who is one of these.

We have General Kross. General Kross will be going to TRANSCOM.

We have a number of Army nominations.

We have General Tilelli, to be the top military official in a very, very impor-

tant and volatile part of the world, Korea. He wears two hats, both in U.S. Army and the U.N. Command.

We have General Wesley Clark in the SOUTHCOM position—enormously important.

We have a number of U.S. Army Reserve officers: General Bergson, General Caton, General Kropp, General O'Connell, Colonel Deloatch, to be major generals; Colonel Diamond, to be brigadier general; Colonel Gilley, Colonel Gilliam, Colonel Roan, Colonel Rossi, and Colonel Simmons, to be brigadier generals.

We have Lt. Gen. David Bramlett going to FORCEM, another very important position, commanding all of our Army forces in the United States.

We have General Schoomaker.

We have a number of Marine Corps generals:

Brigadier General Braaten; Brigadier General DeLong; Brigadier General Hanlon; Brigadier General Higginbotham; Brigadier General Karamarkovich; Brig. Gen. Jack Klimp;

Maj. Gen. Carol Mutter, she will become the head of manpower in the Marines Corps. She will also become the highest ranking female to serve not only in the Marine Corps but also in the history of our military. I have met her, have talked to her, and have followed her career—an enormously important general.

I will not name all of these, but I guess the first thing I would like to say to my chairman, Senator THURMOND, is that I appreciate his diligence in trying to get these nominations through, and I hope that we will be able to get all of them through this evening.

I certainly urge my colleagues who may have questions about any of the nominees or have any concerns about the nominees, to basically come to the floor and let us know and state their concerns, and let us see if we cannot follow them and get all of these nominations through.

I think it is important for them to go through. I believe, if any of them do not go through, that it is very important for the leadership of the Senate to schedule a debate and let us debate them. If there are any concerns about any of them, I think we ought to debate it, get the concern out on the floor and have the Senate vote on it.

That would be my hope. I believe the Senator from South Carolina will share that hope.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, these nominations have been before us for quite a time. They all meet the requirements. They should be approved. They are needed in their respective services. I hope that we could get those up as quickly as possible and get them approved.

There is one that is being objected to by a Senator. Maybe we can act on the rest of them. I would like to see all of them acted on, including that one. But maybe we can act on the rest of them so they can go about performing their duties.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, there was a unanimous-consent request that was submitted today asking that all amendments be filed today or not be in order. That unanimous-consent request was not agreed to. It is my strong hope, though, that we will be able to have that kind of unanimous-consent request agreed to early next week.

I serve notice on our side of the aisle that we would like all amendments filed by 4 o'clock next Tuesday afternoon. I have talked to the chairman about this. I have talked to the majority leader, Senator LOTT, about this. It is certainly my intention to do everything possible to get that kind of unanimous-consent agreement early next week.

So I serve notice today to all our colleagues, particularly those on the Democratic side of the aisle, from my perspective, that I will do everything in my power to help Senator THURMOND, and the leaders on both sides of the aisle, in their efforts to move this bill next week. The way to do that is to have all amendments that are going to be considered on this bill in by Tuesday at 4 o'clock.

It is my understanding that the majority leader would like to pass this bill next week, as well as the Defense appropriations bill. We have gotten bogged down on nongermane amendments now. It is my hope we can get back on Defense amendments, stick to those and get this bill done next week.

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, there is no more important legislation before this Congress than to get this Defense authorization bill passed. We have been pleading with the Members to come in with their amendments. They have been delayed, delayed. Now the time has come to act.

We ask everyone who has an amendment to come forward and present their amendment by Tuesday at 4 o'clock. We are going to begin acting. We would like to have the amendments all in at that time. I urge all of the Members to do that, especially those on the Republican side. Senator NUNN has spoken about the Democratic side. He and I are working together. We are working together for the good of the country with this bill. It is nonpartisan.